

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ACDA-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-03 SCA-01 OIC-02

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1892

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, FI

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS:

HIGH-LEVEL ATTENDANCE

REF: A) STATE 220772, B) HELSINKI 1799, C) HELSINKI 1645

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL C FINNISH DELEGATION TO 31ST REGULAR SESSION WILL BE HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER KALEVI SORSA. SORSA WILL ARRIVE NEW YORK 1705 SEPT 24 VIA FINNAIR FLIGHT AY-103. HE IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN FROM NEW YORK VIA FINNAIR FLIGHT AY-104 DEPARTING OCTOBER 1 AT 2000. IN ADDITION TO DELEGATION MEMBERS MENTIONED REFTEL C, AMBASSADOR ILKKA PASTINEN WILL ATTEND THOSE SESSIONS DISCUSSING DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS, AND MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MULTILATERAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS SECTION CHIEF OLLI MENNANDER WILL ATTEND AT LEAST THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF THE ASSEMBLY SESSION.

2. POLCOUNS CALLED ON MENNANDER SEPT 13 TO DISCUSS UNGA ISSUES, DRAWING ON GUIDELINES GIVEN IN REFTEL A AND PREVIOUS. WITH RESPECT TO KEY ISSUES, MENNANDER HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

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A. KOREA: FINAND WILL TAKE ITS TRADITIONAL

POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, ABSTAINING ON BOTH RESOLUTIONS.

B. SOUTHERN AFRICA: MENNANDER EXPECTS THIS QUESTION TO BE PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. HE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION AS VERY FLUID, PARTICULARLY WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER EVEN NOW ON THE SCENE WORKING FOR SOLUTIONS. HE WAS VERY COMPLIMENTARY CONCERNING THE USG'S EFFORTS IN THIS AREA, BUT SAID THAT OBVIOUSLY GENERAL ASSEMBLY TREATMENT OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WILL DEPEND UPON THE OUTCOME OF CURRENT EFFORTS.

C. ZIONISM/RACISM: HE SAID FINLAND HAS OPPOSED THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM AND WOULD CONTINUE TO OPPOSE IT. HE INDICATED THE GOF WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP A CONSENSUS ON A DEFINITION OF RACISM THAT WOULD NOT INCLUDE ZIONISM.

D. DISARMAMENT: MENNANDER SAID THAT AMBASSADOR PASTINEN IS CURRENTLY IN NEW YORK ENGAGING IN CONSULTATIONS, DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF WHICH FINLAND MAY HAVE A DISARMAMENT INITIATIVE TO PRESENT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCERNING NUCLEAR FUEL SAFEGUARDS.

3. THE POLCOUNS REVIEWED US POSITIONS ON THE UN BUDGET, UN RESTRUCTURING AND EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF UN ACTIVITIES. MENNANDER SAID THE GOF SHARES THE US INTEREST IN MAKING THE UN A MORE EFFICIENT AND RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION AND WILL TAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH ON THESE ISSUES.

4. IN GENERAL MENNANDER'S COMMENTS CLOSELY FOLLOWED PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTING ON THESE ISSUES. AUSTAD

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